Nova Scotia Environment
Statement of Mandate
2012-2013

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment

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Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment

We are pleased to present a Statement of Mandate for Nova Scotia Environment for 2012-2013 that will contribute to the government's core priorities in the upcoming year.

The Department's mandate reflects our guiding pieces of legislation: the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, the *Environment Act*, the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, the *Special Places Protection Act*, the *Water Resources Protection Act*, the *Anti-Idling Act*, and the *Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*. To achieve our mandate, we collaborate with other departments and governments and many stakeholders to deliver a broad range of programs and services to Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotia Environment will continue our work to achieve desired environmental outcomes, cultivate partnerships and environmental stewards, enhance our service delivery, develop and enhance ways to deliver our programs and foster a winning workplace for our staff.

Each year, we establish priorities that help us meet these goals. In 2012-2013, we will build on the changes to the *Environment Act* that will allow us to match our use of resources to the environmental and human health risks of the activities we regulate. We will also review any recommendations resulting from a review of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA)* carried out by the Minister's Round Table on the Environment and Sustainable Prosperity.

This year, our focus will be on initiatives such as developing a Sustainable Transportation Strategy with the Department of Energy, continuing our work to legally protect 12 per cent of our province's lands by 2015, and continuing to implement "Water for Life: Nova Scotia's Water Resource Management Strategy" and "Our Path Forward – Building on the Success of Nova Scotia's Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy."

We will continue to collaborate with our partners in 2012-2013 to carry out our mandate to protect the environment and health of all Nova Scotians, while growing our economy.

Honourable Sterling Belliveau
Minister of Environment

Sara Jane Snook
Deputy Minister of Environment

1. Mandate/Mission/Vision

Mandate

The mandate of Nova Scotia Environment is to:

- support and promote the protection, enhancement, and prudent use of the environment (*Environment Act*);
- provide for the establishment, management, protection and use of wilderness areas (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act*);
- provide for the preservation, protection, and study of ecological sites that are considered important parts of the natural heritage of the Province and promote understanding and appreciation of same among the people of the Province (*Special Places Protection Act*);
- conserve and allocate water resources to ensure long-term self-sufficiency and utilization to the greatest benefit of the population and ecosystem (*Water Resources Protection Act*);
- promote the interconnections between the health of the economy, the environment and the people of the Province and promote the Province's environmental assets as essential to the long-term prosperity of the Province (*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*);
- promote the reduction of unnecessary idling (*Anti-idling Act*);
- reduce human and environmental exposure to non-essential pesticides (*Non-essential Pesticides Control Act*).

Vision

Nova Scotia's environment is healthy, well-managed, and supports *prosperous communities.*

Mission

Nova Scotia Environment leads the way to ensure that our environment is valued, protected, and enhanced in partnerships with all Nova Scotians.

2. Government Priorities

Make health care better for you and your family

Nova Scotia Environment has a mandate to ensure environmental protection, which ultimately impacts human health across the province. The Department's legislation, regulations and policies are aimed at improving and sustaining human health. Sustainable environmental management is closely connected to healthy communities and a healthier population.

Inspectors with the Department work in communities around the province ensuring regulations are upheld, many of which have a direct impact on human health. Our regulations ensure such things as safe public drinking water supplies, good air quality and good management of a range of other activities. In addition to this regulatory work, the Department is proactively adopting legislation and policies that will positively impact human health in the future, including implementing "Water for Life: Nova Scotia's Water Resource Management Strategy" and the development of a Sustainable Transportation Strategy.

Create good jobs and grow the economy

Nova Scotia Environment is closely linked to economic outcomes through the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (EGSPA). Through twenty-one targets, EGSPA showcases the interconnectedness of the environment and economy. The overall long-term objective of EGSPA is to integrate environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. To meet this objective, a specific focus is placed on demonstrating international leadership by having one of the cleanest and most sustainable environments in the world by the year 2020, while improving the Province's economic performance to a level that is equal to or above the Canadian average by the same year. This year EGSPA is undergoing its first five-year review as required through the legislation. As a result of this review, the intent is to make recommendations that would improve EGSPA and further strengthen linkages to economic development.

Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means

Nova Scotia Environment is committed to ensuring environmental protection through efficient legislation, regulations and policies. As such, the Department continues to review its legislation, regulations and policies, while delivering cost-effective programs. Those who work with the public and these documents on a daily basis will provide input on how to streamline processes to make them more efficient and cost effective, while still maintaining high-quality environmental protection. One example is the recent changes to the *Environment Act* that will allow us to match our use of resources to the environmental and human health risks of the activities we regulate.

3. Performance Measures

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Clean air	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions (**tonnes**) in the province	**1995 cap 189,000**	To maintain total provincial SO_2 emissions below the 2005 cap of 141,750 tonnes, and achieve a 25% reduction in SO_2 emissions from 2001 levels, from facilities emitting > 90 t/yr., by 2010 **2005 cap 141,750** Achieve total provincial emissions no greater than 119,070 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 70,875 tonnes by 2020 (62.5% less than the 1995 provincial cap) **2015 cap 119,070 2020 cap 70,875**	164,000 (2001) 154,000 (2002) 161,000 (2003) 161,000 (2004) 126,500 (2005) 126,281 (2006) 123,645 (2007) 124,300 (2008) 129,325 (2009) 91,033 (2010)* *preliminary data	- Regulations targeted at Nova Scotia Power (see next cell); - implementation of sulphur reduction plans prepared by emitters of > 90 tonnes/annum of SO_2; - in 2005, sulphur content of heavy fuel oil capped at 2.2% by mass, and 2.0% on an annual basis; - and further actions as described in the Climate Change Action Plan
	Annual total sulphur dioxide (SO_2) air emissions (**tonnes**) by Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI)	**1995 cap 145,000**	NSPI to achieve a 50% reduction in SO_2 emissions from their 1995 cap by 2010 (72,000 tonnes) **2005 cap 108,750 2010 cap 72,500** NSPI to achieve a level of SO_2 emissions no greater than 60,900 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 36,250 tonnes by 2020 (a full 75% less than their 1995 cap) **2015 cap 60,900 2020 cap 36,250**	131,677 (2002) 137,300 (2003) 136,021 (2004) 103,732 (2005) 106,616 (2006) 108,544 (2007) 107,472 (2008) 100,868 (2009) 61,904 (2010) 64,812 (2011)	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year together with a report on the overall provincial cap.

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
	Annual total mercury air emissions (**kg**) from NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations	267 (2000)	Maintain the emission cap for NSPI's coal-fired electrical power stations **2005 cap 168 kg** **2010 cap 110 kg** **2011-2012 cap 100 kg** **2013 cap 85 kg** **2014 cap 65 kg** **2020 cap 35 kg**	185 (2001) 163 (2002) 158 (2003) 170 (2004) 105 (2005) 162 (2006) 156 (2007) 163 (2008) 140 (2009) 81.5 (2010) 94.6 (2011)	- Work with NSPI to ensure their emissions are below the regulated cap and that they are still able to meet other emission targets. A report on their emissions will be prepared at the end of the calendar year.
	Annual total nitrogen oxides (NO_x) air emissions (**tonnes**) by NSPI	26,706 (2000)	NSPI's annual NO_x emissions cap for 2009 is 21,365 tonnes, or 20% less than base year **2009 cap 21,365** NSPI to achieve a level of NO_X emissions no greater than 19,288 tonnes by 2015, and no greater than 14,955 tonnes by 2020 (44% less than base year emissions) **2015 cap 19, 288** **2020 cap 14,955**	30,280 (2002) 32,067 (2003) 33,499 (2004) 32,300 (2005) 28,087 (2006) 25,853 (2007) 21,381 (2008) 17,075 (2009) 18,230 (2010) 18,013 (2011)	-NSPI installed low-NO_X on burner systems at coal-fired stations
Clean drinking water	Percentage of population served by municipal water supplies that meet health-based criteria for bacteriological quality	96.5 (2001)	Annual: Maximize the percentage of population meeting the health-based criteria Ultimate: All municipal drinking water supplies will meet the Province's treatment standards	96.5 (2002) 95.7 (2003) 98.4 (2004) 98.0 (2005) 98.7 (2006) 98.2 (2007) 98.6 (2008) 99.5 (2009) 99.9 (2010)	- Continue to implement the Water Resources Management Strategy -Renew the drinking water program -Support development of municipal water supply protection plans -Enforce Water and Wastewater Facility Regulations

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Proactive environmental management	Number of environmental home assessments per year	400 (2006-07)	Complete 600 environmental home assessments per year	1000 (2007-08) 1000 (2008-09) 1000 (2009-2010) 609 (2010-2011) 600 (2011-2012)	Conduct educational Home Assessments through contracts with community-based, non-profit organizations
	Number of septic repairs completed with funding from the Environmental Home Assessment Program (EHAP)	71 (2006-07)	70 septic systems repaired annually	200 (2007-08) 286 (2008-09) 237 (2009-2010) 185 (2010-2011) 100 (2011-2012)	Provide septic system repair/ replacement grants to low- income homeowners whose septic systems are failing

MANDATE: WILDERNESS AREAS PROTECTION ACT & SPECIAL PLACES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Protected natural areas	Total hectares of land protected through NS Environment program options. (*Wilderness Areas Protection Act, Special Places Protection Act* – ecological sites)	**2001** 287,028 ha	**Annual:** Increase the hectares of land under various protection options **Note: Government has set a target to protect 12% (662,360 ha) of Nova Scotia's total land mass by 2015. This includes NSE options, as well as other qualifying legal protection – summarized below:**	Protected through NSE program options 287,320 (2002-03) 287,704 (2003-04) 290,137 (2004-05) 300, 314 (2005-06) 301,154 (2006-07) 301,474 (2007-08) 302,224 (2008-09)	Advance process for protecting 12% of total land mass of the province by: - identifying potential protected areas from the 12% lands that were part of the 2011 public and stakeholder review; - completing the designation of Kelley River and Raven Head Wilderness Areas; - completing the designation of lands associated with the 2007 Bowater land purchase; - making and supporting strategic land acquisitions; - addressing key mitigation and socio-economic impact issues; and - releasing a draft protected areas proposal for broad public consultation.

MANDATE: WILDERNESS AREAS PROTECTION ACT & SPECIAL PLACES PROTECTION ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
			Total Land Mass Protected 2007 451,016 ~8.2 % 2008 456,160 ~8.3 % 2009 474,800 ~8.6 % 2010 475,400~8.6% 2011 484,800~8.8%	320,533 (2009-10) 320,533 (2010-11) 329,175 ha (2011-12)	

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENT ACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA – BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Responsible waste management	Annual solid waste disposal rate per capita* (Kg/person) * Provincial per capita average determined from achievement reported by the seven NS municipal solid waste regions. **Note**: Previously, the performance measure used was a comparison of Nova Scotia's disposal rate to other Atlantic Provinces and national averages. The source of the data was Statistics Canada. The data is only available every two years and there is a two-year delay between year of data and publishing of data.	488kg/capita 2006	Achieve a disposal rate of no greater than 300 kilograms per person by 2015.	488kg/capita - 2006 477kg/capita- 2007 429kg/capita- 2008 417kg/capita – 2009 401kg/capita - 2010	- Actions for the year will focus on implementing "Our Path Forward."

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	**MEASURE**	**DATA -- BASE YEAR**	**TARGET**	**TRENDS**	**STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET**
Economy-wide Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) must be at least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 (EGSPA)	Annual provincial GHG emissions, as measured by the national inventory, compared with 1990 emission levels	19.0 M tones (1990)	17. 1 M tonnes or less GHG emissions by 2020	23.3 M tones (2004) 22.3 M tones (2005) 20.7 M tones (2006) 21.4 M tones (2007) 21.7 M tones (2008) 21.0 M tones (2009) Electricity sector GHG emissions are declining (from 10.2 MT in 2007 to 9.3 MT in 2010).	- Expand ongoing monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions to include a broader range of GHG sources, including those in the public sector - increase understanding of GHG sinks, sources, and opportunities in the NS forestry and agriculture sectors - develop a legislative approach to GHG management, building on current electricity regulations - complete commitments of the 2009 Climate Change Action Plan
	Ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5 = less than 2.5 microns), measured annually and averaged over 3 consecutive years	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2003-05)	30 mg/m3 PM2.5 or less within a 24 hour averaging time by 2010	HRM: 14 mg/m3 (2004-06) 16 mg/m3 (2005-07) 15 mg/m3 (2006-08) 13mg/m3 (2007-09) 16mg/m3 (2008-10)	Meet the Canada-Wide Standard (CWS) for particulate matter
	Ambient ground level ozone, averaged over 3 years	HRM: 57ppb (2000-02) CBRM: 49ppb (2000-02)	65 ppb ground ozone or less, with 8 hour averaging, by 2010	HRM: 53ppb (2001-03) 51ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06) 47ppb (2005-07) 51ppb (2006-08) 51ppb (2007-09) 53ppb (2008-10) CBRM: 49ppb (2001-03) 46ppb (2002-04) 46ppb (2003-05) 48ppb (2004-06)	Meet the CWS for ozone

MANDATE: ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY ACT					
OUTCOME	MEASURE	DATA – BASE YEAR	TARGET	TRENDS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE TARGET
				50ppb (2005-07) 55ppb (2006-08) 55ppb (2007-09) 53ppb (2008-10)	
	% of wastewater treatment facilities that provide at least primary treatment	90% (2009)	Ultimate Goal 100% of wastewater treatment facilities provide at least primary treatment by 2017. 2012-2013 Goal 92% with at least primary treatment.	90% (2010) 91% (2011) 91% (2012)	Work with municipalities to implement the Canada-wide Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE) strategy

4. Budget Context

Nova Scotia Environment			
	2011-2012 Estimate	**2011-2012 Forecast**	**2012-2013 Estimate**
Program & Service Area	($thousands)	($thousands)	($thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:	27,852	26,994	26,385
Administration	1,046	848	1,147
Policy and Corporate Services	4,376	5,055	4,462
Environmental Monitoring and Compliance	12,270	11,878	12,243
Environmental Science and Program Management	7,477	7,032	7,183
Environment and Sustainable Prosperity	726	567	--
Climate Change Directorate	1,687	1,614	1,350
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	27,582	26,994	26,385
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenues, Fees and Recoveries	5,982	5,568	5,355
TCA Purchase Requirements	1,500	1,500	6,730
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	276	238	268